

Nevada RAC Recreation Subcommittee Protocol

1. **Background.** The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA; Public Law 108-447) requires the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to establish a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) to provide advice and recommendations on recreation fees and fee areas in each State or region for Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management or Forest Service. The law allows the agencies to use existing RACs or to establish new Recreation RACs. For the state of Nevada, the existing three BLM RACs have been designated to perform RRAC responsibilities pertaining to both BLM and Forest Service managed Federal lands and waters per the national inter-agency agreement between the Forest Service and BLM with the formation of a RAC Recreation Subcommittee. The RRAC role is part of a larger public participation role described in REA.

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this document is to lay out the general process and protocol for the Nevada Recreation Subcommittee to perform its responsibilities under REA. Additionally, the intent of this document is to facilitate the Recreation Subcommittee's review of agency proposals by suggesting standard guidelines and schedules for submission of agency fee proposals for Recreation Subcommittee review.

3. **Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Recreation Subcommittee.** To assist the Nevada RACs in performing its responsibilities, a Recreation Subcommittee has been established. This group is comprised of existing BLM RAC members, and potentially new members, interested and available to accomplish the upfront actions necessary to review, analyze, and screen agency fee proposals. The Recreation Subcommittee will elect a Chair and Vice Chair. The Recreation Subcommittee will normally meet prior to the RAC meetings to hear agency fee proposals and determine if they are ready for consideration by the RACs. However, the Recreation Subcommittee may convene special public meetings to hear agency fee proposals and public comment, e.g., when there is significant public interest or controversy. The Recreation Subcommittee may also solicit advisory input from members of the public and recreational users who have knowledge of agency recreation sites and fee proposals that are under review by the Recreation Subcommittee.

4. **Administrative Support.** The Nevada BLM and Forest Service staffs will assist the RACs and Recreation Subcommittee with administrative support, including the following actions: conducting public outreach and notification of Recreation Subcommittee meetings (Federal Register, local newspapers, mailing lists, etc.); coordinating the Recreation Subcommittee meeting locations and dates; keeping minutes of Recreation Subcommittee meetings; posting information on agency web sites as required; and assisting the RAC(s) and Recreation Subcommittee with record-keeping and reports.

5. **RAC Business Cycle.** To assist the agencies in planning their fee proposals for Recreation Subcommittee and RAC review, the frequency and timing of Recreation Subcommittee, and if necessary, Work Group meetings could be established up to a year in advance. The schedule can be adjusted, as needed, but is intended to help the agencies and Recreation Subcommittee plan their annual cycle. Also, depending on the number and timing of agency fee proposals, the number and frequency of Recreation Subcommittee meetings may be adjusted. The schedule presumes that agencies have already complied with the internal actions necessary to comply with REA, such as conducting prior public review of their fee proposals.

6. **Scope.** Initially, recreation fee proposals for standard amenity, expanded amenity, and non-commercial individual special recreation permit fees, whether new or revised, will be submitted to the Recreation Subcommittee for review. As the Recreation Subcommittee and agencies gain experience with this process, the Recreation Subcommittee may elect to establish criteria to modify the scope of proposals to be reviewed.

7. **RRAC Process.**

a. **Agencies.** The agency proponents for recreation fee proposals should:

- accomplish actions required by REA and their internal agency rules, including opportunities for public involvement, prior to submission of proposals to the RAC and Recreation Subcommittee.
- coordinate with the BLM Nevada State Office (Recreation Program Lead and RAC Coordinator) and Recreation Subcommittee Chair to arrange for their fee proposals to be scheduled for discussion at a Recreation Subcommittee meeting.
- submit fee proposals to the BLM Nevada State Office staff and Recreation Subcommittee at least two weeks prior to the Subcommittee meeting. Content of the fee proposals should follow internal agency practices and follow the Recreation Subcommittee Guidelines (The BLM Nevada State Office and Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor's Office will determine whether agency fee proposals are ready for Recreation Subcommittee consideration and provide feedback to agency fee proponents if their proposals need additional work before consideration by the Recreation Subcommittee).
- assist the BLM Nevada State Office staff with public outreach and notification of the Recreation Subcommittee meetings by providing press releases and comments regarded to proposals.
- present their fee proposals to the Recreation Subcommittee when scheduled on the meeting agendas.
- provide administrative support for minutes, proposals, etc.

b. **Recreation Subcommittee** This group should:

- receive and review agency fee proposals prior to agency presentation at the Recreation Subcommittee meeting. The group will receive the proposals as early as possible, but at least two weeks before the subcommittee meeting date.
- hear presentations by agency fee proposal proponents and opponents at Recreation Subcommittee meetings.
- if needed, due to significant public interest or controversy, convene Recreation Subcommittee meetings in public forum to hear agency fee proposals and public comments (preferably at

locations that best facilitate participation by the local public most affected by the agency fee proposals). The Recreation Subcommittee, BLM, and Forest Service would coordinate such meetings.

-- assist in contacting knowledgeable members of the public and recreational users when additional input is needed, e.g., for recreation sites that are unfamiliar to the Recreation Subcommittee.

-- develop a report (to take to the RAC) to include: The Subcommittee's motion on agency fee proposals for the RAC's concurrence; the Subcommittee meeting minutes, public comments and agencies' fee proposals in the standard fee proposal format. The Recreation Subcommittee member(s) from each RAC would present the fee proposal motion(s) and documentation to their respective RAC.

c. RAC's. The RAC's should:

--provide a written recommendation to the Agencies.

-- include agency fee proposals in the agenda and public notice of the RAC meeting.

--hear fee proposal presentations from selected Recreation Subcommittee member, selected by the Subcommittee.

-- review and discuss the Recreation Subcommittee report and draft motion.

-- approve a motion which provides the RAC's recommendation to the Designated Federal Official. The recommendation shall include any recommendations made by the Subcommittee and a summary of the discussion during public meetings.

Approval:

Signature of Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC Chair:

Date Approved:

1/16/08

Signature of Northeastern Great Basin RAC Chair:

Date Approved:

2/21/08

Signature of Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC Chair:

Date Approved:

3-18-08